

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT FOR S/NM, CARACAS FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, PE

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON NEW INTERIOR MINISTER

1. ON FEBRUARY 27, AMBASSADOR PAID INITIAL CALL ON NEW INTERIOR MINISTER BRIGADIER GENERAL LUIS F. CISNEROS VIZQUERRA. LIMA SAIC AND EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR ACCOMPANIED. AMBASSADOR TOOK OCCASION OF COURTESY CALL TO OUTLINE U.S. COOPERATIVE EFFORTS IN THE ANTI-NARCOTICS FIELD IN PERU, AND TO OBTAIN NEW MINISTER'S APPROVAL.

2. AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT, AS AUTHORIZED BY FORMER INTERIOR MINISTER RICHTER, THERE ARE FOUR DEA AGENTS ASSIGNED TO EMBASSY LIMA. TWO WORK PRIMARILY WITHIN THE EMBASSY, WHILE THE OTHER TWO PROVIDE LIAISON WITH THE PERUVIAN INVESTIGATIONS POLICE (PIP), THE GUARDIA CIVIL AND THE PERUVIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE. DEA AGENTS HERE ALWAYS CONDUCT OPERATIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH PIP UNDER THE ORDERS OF DIRECTOR GENERAL ALFONSO RIVERA-SANTANDER. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT AT PIP REQUEST, DEA AGENTS SOMETIMES WORK "UNDER COVER", POSING AS NARCOTICS BUYERS IN OPERATIONS LEADING TO ARRESTS BY PIP. THIS IS RISKY BUT NECESSARY, AND THE MINISTER SHOULD, OF COURSE, KNOW ABOUT THE PRACTICE. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT ANOTHER FIELD OF JOINT COOPERATION IS IN THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS, WHILE A THIRD INVOLVES TECHNICAL TRAINING COURSES CONDUCTED HERE AND IN THE U.S. FOR PERUVIAN ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. CISNEROS

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INDICATED THAT HE IS AWARE OF ALL THESE AREAS OF COOPERATION

AND APPROVES OF THEM.

3. WITHOUT REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO A CURRENT STRUGGLE BETWEEN PIP AND GUARDIA CIVIL FOR PRIMACY IN THE ANTI-NARCOTICS FIELD, THE AMBASSADOR ASKED CISNEROS WHO SHOULD BE OUR PRIMARY CONTACT WITHIN THE GOP: RIVERA-SANTANDER OR SOMEONE ELSE? CISNEROS REPLIED THAT RIVERA-SANTANDER SHOULD BE THE CONTACT, AND PRAISED HIS WORK. CISNEROS INDICATED THAT HE WANTED CLOSE U.S.-PERUVIAN COOPERATION TO BE CONTINUED. THE AMBASSADOR POINTED TO THE NEED FOR COORDINATION IN THE ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT AMONG SEVERAL PERUVIAN MINISTRIES, AND THE PIP, GUARDIA CIVIL AND CUSTOMS SERVICE. CISNEROS AGREED.

4. AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO OPERATION FUNNEL (A PLANNED LARGE-SCALE INTERNATIONAL INTERDICTION CAMPAIGN) AND TO PLAN COCAL (A PIP PROPOSAL TO ENFORCE EXISTING LAWS FOR DESTRUCTION OF ILLEGAL COCA PLANTINGS). CISNEROS SAID THAT RIVERA-SANTANDER HAD BRIEFED HIM. CISNEROS INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ HAS DIRECTED A REDUCTION IN COCA PRODUCTION.

5. COMMENT: OUR INITIAL IMPRESSION OF CISNEROS IS FAVORABLE, AND WE ARE GLAD THAT HE APPEARS TO BE FULLY BRIEFED ON ONGOING COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS AND MODES OF OPERATION. MORALES BERMUDEZ' REPORTED DIRECTIVE TO REDUCE COCA PRODUCTION, IF IMPLEMENTED, COULD BE HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT FOR PLAN COCAL AND MORE GENERALLY FOR PERU'S OBLIGATION UNDER THE SINGLE CONVENTION. WE WILL ENCOURAGE FOLLOW-THROUGH.

DEAN

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